

## CLAIMS

1. A recombinant cytomegalovirus gL protein, or a complex-forming fragment thereof, wherein said gL protein or complex-forming fragment comprises a mutation at Protease Recognition Site, wherein said mutation reduces protease cleavage at said Protease Recognition Site, as compared to a control.
2. The gL protein or complex-forming fragment of claim 1, wherein said mutation comprises addition, deletion, substitution, or a combination thereof, of an amino acid residue.
3. The gL protein or complex-forming fragment of claim 1 or 2, wherein residues of said Protease Recognition Site form a  $\beta$ -strand, and said mutation maintains the  $\beta$ -strand conformation.
4. The gL protein or complex-forming fragment of any one of claims 1-3, wherein said mutation results in no more than 20% (molar percentage) of gL cleaved at said Protease Recognition Site when recombinantly expressed in a mammalian host cell.
5. The gL protein or complex-forming fragment of any one of claims 1-4, wherein said mutation comprises addition of one or more amino acid residues.
6. The gL protein or complex-forming fragment of any one of claims 1-5, wherein said mutation comprises deletion of one to three amino acid residues
7. The gL protein or complex-forming fragment of any one of claims 1-6, wherein said mutation comprises substituting a residue with a corresponding residue from the gL protein of another herpes virus.
8. The gL protein or complex-forming fragment of claims 1-6, wherein said mutation comprises substituting one or more of the residues A96, N97, and S98 of SEQ ID NO: 1.
9. A cytomegalovirus complex comprising the recombinant gL protein or complex-forming fragment of any one of claims 1-8.
10. The complex of claim 9, wherein said complex is a pentameric complex comprising: gH or a pentamer-forming fragment thereof, the recombinant gL protein of any one of claims 1-8 or a pentamer-forming fragment thereof, pUL128 or a pentamer-forming fragment thereof, pUL130 or a pentamer-forming fragment thereof, and pUL131 or a pentamer-forming fragment thereof.
11. The complex of claim 10, comprising a pentamer-forming fragment of gH that lacks a transmembrane domain.

12. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a polynucleotide sequence encoding the recombinant cytomegalovirus gL protein or fragment of any one of claims 1-8.
13. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 12, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is a vector
14. A host cell, preferably a mammalian host cell, comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 12
15. The host cell of claim 14, wherein said host cell comprises one or more polynucleotide sequences encoding cytomegalovirus pentameric complex, said pentameric complex comprising: gH or a pentamer-forming fragment thereof, gL or a pentamer-forming fragment thereof, pUL128 or a pentamer-forming fragment thereof, pUL130 or a pentamer-forming fragment thereof, and pUL131 or a pentamer-forming fragment thereof.
16. An immunogenic composition comprising the recombinant cytomegalovirus gL protein or fragment of any one of claims 1-8, or the complex of any one of claims 9-11, and optionally comprising an adjuvant.
17. The immunogenic composition of claim 16 for use in inducing an immune response against cytomegalovirus.
18. The immunogenic composition of claim 16 for use in inhibiting cytomegalovirus entry into a cell.
19. Use of the immunogenic composition of claim 16 in the manufacture of a medicament for inducing an immune response against cytomegalovirus.
20. Use of the immunogenic composition of claim 16 in the manufacture of a medicament for inhibiting cytomegalovirus entry into a cell.